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It covers (1) U.S. Federal government documents, especially those from executive branch departments and those from the Congressional branch - - Committees, the U.S. General Accounting Office, and the Congressional Budget Office; (2) policy briefs from major private think tanks, especially those in Washington; and (3) major reports from national professional associations. A few new high quality, high relevance think tank-sponsored books are also listed.

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Title Index

- [Item#1](#) 2012 Education Appropriations Guide
- [Item#2](#) As Deportations Rise to Record Levels, Most Latinos Oppose Obama's Policy
- [Item#3](#) Best Performing Cities 2011
- [Item#4](#) Changes in the Distribution of Income Among Tax Filers Between 1996 and 2006
- [Item#5](#) The Debate over Airline Emissions
- [Item#6](#) Hard Times, College Majors, Unemployment and Earnings
- [Item#7](#) How Serious Are Iran's Threats?
- [Item#8](#) Intelligence Issues for Congress
- [Item#9](#) Little Change in Public's Response to 'Capitalism,' 'Socialism'
- [Item#10](#) The State of Food Insecurity in the World 2011
- [Item#11](#) Sustaining U.S. Global Leadership: Priorities for 21st Century Defense

Reports

- [Item#1](#)
2012 Education Appropriations Guide. New America Foundation. Jason Delisle and Jennifer Cohen. January 3, 2012.

Congress completed the fiscal year 2012 appropriations process on December 17th, 2011, finalizing annual funding for federal education programs through September 30, 2012 at \$68.1 billion, down \$233 million from the prior year. It is the first year since 2007 that Congress did not increase total appropriations for education programs. The issue brief is a guide to the appropriations process and recently-enacted fiscal year 2012 education funding. It includes an analysis of funding for major education programs, an explanation of key budget developments and laws that shaped this year's funding, and a retrospective timeline of the 2012 appropriations process.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://newamerica.net/sites/newamerica.net/files/policydocs/2012%20Education%20Appropriations%20Guide_1.pdf [PDF format, 11 pages, 292.06 KB].

Item#2

As Deportations Rise to Record Levels, Most Latinos Oppose Obama's Policy. Pew Hispanic Center. December 28, 2011.

Latinos disapprove by a margin of more than two-to-one of the way the Obama administration is handling deportations of unauthorized immigrants, according to a new national survey of Latino adults by the Pew Hispanic Center, a project of the Pew Research Center. The survey also reveals that heading into the 2012 presidential campaign, Obama and the Democratic Party continue to enjoy strong support from Latino registered voters, despite a decline in Obama's job approval rating.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.pewhispanic.org/files/2011/12/Deportations-and-Latinos.pdf> [PDF format, 66 pages, 768.34 KB].

Item#3

Best Performing Cities 2011. Milken Institute. Ross Devol et al. December 15, 2011.

Leaders in this year's index, which ranks U.S. metros based on their ability to create and sustain jobs, are cities that most benefited from renewed investment in business equipment; have diversified technology bases, which also drive growth in business and professional services; are exposed to America's booming energy sector; and are home to a large military presence.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.milkeninstitute.org/pdf/BPC2011.pdf> [PDF format, 40 pages, 2.8 MB].

Item#4

Changes in the Distribution of Income Among Tax Filers Between 1996 and 2006: The Role of Labor Income, Capital Income, and Tax Policy. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Thomas L. Hungerford. December 29, 2011.

Social scientists and philosophers have been concerned with issues surrounding the distribution of income or income inequality for over 200 years--the economist and philosopher Adam Smith discussed

these issues as early as 1776. Academic writers have been writing on income inequality measurement issues for at least a century. Policy makers have also long been interested in income inequality issues; for example, the issue came up in Senate debate in 1898. Bills have been introduced in the 112th Congress that address the issue of income inequality by affecting the income of workers and taxpayers in different parts of the income distribution. In the second session of the 112th, Congress will likely debate the scheduled expiration (at the end of 2012) of the 2001 and 2003 Bush tax cuts, which could affect income inequality. The report examines changes in income inequality among tax filers between 1996 and 2006. In particular, the role of changes in wages, capital income, and tax policy is investigated.

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R42131.pdf> [PDF format, 22 pages, 361.59 KB].

Item#5

The Debate over Airline Emissions. Council on Foreign Relations. Toni Johnson. December 29, 2011.

Will an EU plan requiring all airlines to join its carbon market starting in 2012 spark a trade war and prove financially harmful to a struggling airline industry? The report provides analysis.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.cfr.org/eu/debate-over-aviation-emissions/p26924> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#6

Hard Times, College Majors, Unemployment and Earnings: Not All College Degrees Are Created Equal. Georgetown Center on Education and the Workforce. Anthony P. Carnevale et al. January 4, 2011.

The report finds that unemployment among job seekers with no better than a high school diploma is a catastrophic 22.9 percent, and an almost unthinkable 31.5 percent among high school dropouts. So, is college still worth it? A major conclusion of the report is that it all depends on your major. And while a college degree gives job seekers a formidable advantage over those without, the study points out, not all degrees are created equal, and there are a number of factors that prospective students should consider before sending off their college applications.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www9.georgetown.edu/grad/gppi/hpi/cew/pdfs/Unemployment.Final.update1.pdf> [PDF format, 20 pages, 604.68 KB].

Item#7

How Serious Are Iran's Threats? Council on Foreign Relations. Michael Elleman. January 5, 2011.

Iran's threat to close the strategic Strait of Hormuz is intended to signal its deterrent capacity to the United States and bolster leadership at home amid biting economic sanctions, says expert Michael Elleman.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.cfr.org/iran/serious-irans-threats/p26972> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#8

Intelligence Issues for Congress. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Richard A. Best Jr. December 28, 2011.

The effort to reduce government expenditures has not neglected the intelligence community. The Administration is considering long-term reductions with an emphasis on potentially redundant information technology systems. There is great concern, however, that any reductions be carefully made to avoid curtailing capabilities that have become integral to military operations and to policymaking in many areas, including counterterrorism and cybersecurity.

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/intel/RL33539.pdf> [PDF format, 32 pages, 342.91 KB].

Item#9

Little Change in Public's Response to 'Capitalism,' 'Socialism'. Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. December 28, 2011.

The recent Occupy Wall Street protests have focused public attention on what organizers see as the excesses of America's free market system, but perceptions of capitalism, and even of socialism, have changed little since early 2010 despite the recent tumult.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.people-press.org/files/legacy-pdf/12-28-11%20Words%20release.pdf> [PDF format, 8 pages, 43.53 KB].

Item#10

The State of Food Insecurity in the World 2011. U.N. Food and Agricultural Organization. 2011.

The report highlights the differential impacts that the world food crisis of 2006-08 had on different countries, with the poorest being most affected. It focuses on the costs of food price volatility, as well as the dangers and opportunities presented by high food prices. Climate change and an increased frequency of weather shocks, increased linkages between energy and agricultural markets due to growing demand for biofuels, and increased financialization of food and agricultural commodities all suggest that price volatility is here to stay. The report describes the effects of price volatility on food security and presents policy options to reduce volatility in a cost-effective manner and to manage it when it cannot be avoided.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.fao.org/docrep/014/i2330e/i2330e.pdf> [PDF format, 55 pages, 4MB].

Item#11

Sustaining U.S. Global Leadership: Priorities for 21st Century Defense. U.S. Department of Defense. January 2012.

This strategic guidance document describes the projected security environment and the key military missions for which the Department of Defense (DoD) will prepare. It is intended as a blueprint for the

Joint Force in 2020, providing a set of precepts that will help guide decisions regarding the size and shape of the force over subsequent program and budget cycles, and highlighting some of the strategic risks that may be associated with the proposed strategy.

http://www.defense.gov/news/Defense_Strategic_Guidance.pdf [PDF format, 16 pages, 5.89 MB].